

THE STAGE

THEATRICAL TOPICS

"It is not often, I fancy, that one defends one's hero or friend from himself." So Miss Morris begins her sketch of Tommaso Salvini in McClure's, and the defense she undertakes is of the man as she knew him against the autobiographer as he misunderstands himself. "It is astonishing," says Miss Morris, "what a misleading portrait Signor Salvini has drawn of himself. I worked with him and I found him a gentleman of modest, even retiring disposition, and most courtly manners," and by many recollections of a personal and professional intimacy with this great actor she shows us the real Salvini—the hater of shams on the stage, the magnanimous star who thought it not beneath his dignity to receive and accept a suggestion from a newcomer in his play; the thorough artist who considered not how a part would fit him, but how to fit himself to his part; the affectionate husband and father.

Chance for American Playwrights.
Will A. Page, acting for Miss Percy Haswell, who has her own company in Chase's Lyceum theater, Baltimore, stimulated by the fact that a prize was lately given by a New York jury of dramatic critics and Mr. Belasco for a play which simply couldn't be acted at all, offers a prize of an early production and a cash royalty equal to the highest paid by her during the season, only stipulating for the first option to purchase in case of success, that the play shall be original, written by an American author, and received in Baltimore by Feb. 15 next. It seems to be a very good offer—for those who have plays already written. For any others the short time amounts to a bar.

Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shannon.
Since they left the Lyceum theater stock company several seasons ago, Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shannon have been seen as co-stars in a number of plays, the most notable, perhaps, being "The Moth and the Flame." The personal popularity that these players gained at the Lyceum has increased since they have had their own company. The proficiency of Mr. Kelcey



and Miss Shannon in the art of acting has been many times demonstrated. Mr. Kelcey has much technical skill, and the ease and polish of the man of the world. Miss Shannon may be called the ideal ingenue, and her charming portrayals are ever a delight. This season Mr. Kelcey and Miss Shannon are touring in "Her Lord and Master."

Much Money for Actors' Fund.
Julia Marlowe's scheme by which the actors' fund profits from the sale of her autograph promises better than expected. Nobody now gets her autograph unless the request be accompanied by fifty cents, but the demand continues almost as before. Copies of Charles Major's novel, "When Knighthood Was in Flower," photographs of the star to be signed and cards especially prepared by auto-

graph collectors form a goodly part of Miss Marlowe's mail. One admirer in St. Louis has voluntarily raised the autograph fee 1,000 per cent, for in his letter of request he inclosed a \$1 bill. Miss Marlowe's last check to the fund, just sent, amounted to nearly \$70.

Julia Arthur May Act Again.

A strong rumor in theatrical circles had it last night that Julia Arthur, who retired from the stage two years ago in response to the wishes of her husband, Benjamin P. Cheney, a Boston millionaire, had decided to return to the stage and was looking for a Broadway theater to open in next season. The rumor also had it that she



Herbert Kelcey.

was also in the field for a suitable Romeo to play to her Juliet.

Sothern's Artistic Sense.

Mr. E. H. Sothern began his career as an artist and his experience, while by no means profitable at the time, is of value to him now, as is evidenced by the exceptional beauty of the scenes in "If I Were King," as he supervises every one of his productions, the color contrasts and lighting of which might well be studied by most of the stars and managers in the country.

President at the Theater.

President Roosevelt and his entire family attended the theater in Washington last week to see "The Rogers Brothers in Washington." It was the first time a chief executive has been in a Washington theater in nearly a decade. Mr. Roosevelt occupied a lower box seat and seemed to heartily enjoy

Trained Alligators at Work

Jefferson Lee, who lives on the St. John's river in Putnam county, Fla., has the most extraordinary team in the country. It is a team of alligators that Mr. Lee uses to tow his boat up and down the river when he goes to market. Mr. Lee has to go six miles down the river to his postoffice, and it is a hard pull against the current coming back. He noticed how swiftly alligators swam, and it occurred to him that it might be a good idea to turn the alligators that abound in the St. John's river, to some account. He captured a pair of young 'gators and raised them in his yard. He taught them to swim and drag a weight behind them and he also taught them to turn either to the right or left by pulling ropes fastened to their teeth on either side.

When the alligators were big enough he put a harness that he had constructed on them and harnessed them to his

boat. They swam well and pulled the boat through the water at a good speed. By pulling on the reins that passed through the mouths of the 'gators, Mr. Lee was able to turn his strange water team in any direction he pleased.

Mr. Lee made a point of never feeding his alligators until after they returned from a trip, when he would immediately reward each one with a fine meal.

The alligators seem to be willing to perform their task of pulling his boat, and when he turns them out of the pen in which they are stabled and starts them for the water they shuffle down to the boat in the liveliest style, and after they are hitched they plunge into the water with grunts of delight.

Mr. Lee says his strange team has never run away or kicked out the

dashboard of his river craft, but that they have one fault, for which, however, he does not blame them. They sometimes sweep their powerful tails in a curve through the water, and once smashed one of his boats into small bits and threw Mr. Lee and a party that he was taking boat riding into the river. They would all have been drowned had not the alligators swam back to them and permitted the party to climb on their backs, after which the alligators swam swiftly to the shore and all were saved. Mr. Lee now hitches his team twenty feet in front of the boat, so that the sweep of their tails will not endanger the craft.

Mr. Lee's success has created great interest among all of his neighbors, and now many alligators are being trained for duty as sea horses.

A man's true character crops out when he is dealing in triffles.



Kiowas On Qui Vive.

When the next new moon appears in the western sky a joyful shout will salute the bright orb from every Kiowa village in the Indian Territory. All Kiowas are awaiting the event with eager anxiety, for it is to be the beginning of a wedding festival which will last for three days and nights. The contracting parties are of royal blood, the bride being the beautiful Loralene, the richest heiress of the Kiowas, and it is anticipated that no means will be spared to make the festival the greatest ever witnessed among the tribes of the west.

For two or three years Wild Buffalo, the groom, has pursued this pretty Indian girl which he sought to make his wife. He had many rivals and during the days of his long courtship there have been periods when it looked as though he would fail.

Was a Coquette.

Loralene was as coquettish as she was pretty. When she was little her mother named her Tena, which meant "mocking bird" in the Kiowa language. This name, however, did not suit a girl of 16 who had become the

accompany the expedition for the purpose of selecting a husband from among the youths who displayed the greatest courage and endurance in the chase. Old warriors say that they never before witnessed a more successful hunt. Many say that it was during this time that she discovered she was better pleased with Wild Buffalo's attentions than others who sought her hand.

Danced for Her Favor.

Not long ago she invited a dozen or more young warriors to sing and dance before her, promising that she would certainly marry the one who should display the most grace and endurance. The infatuated young bucks nearly danced themselves into the realms of the happy hunting grounds. The medicine man, who went to put an end to the strange contest after it had lasted three days and nights, found that only two of the rival lovers were able to stand on their feet. Wild Buffalo and Three Killer were still chanting praises of the maiden as they circled about her, though they were barely able to raise their feet out of the dust, and their words of love were uttered in hoarse whispers. The wayward belle escaped matrimony in this instance owing to the fact that she could not marry both of the braves

Wild Buffalo, mounted upon a gayly caparisoned horse, will dash into the village, followed by a dozen or more young braves, friends of the bridegroom. Crowds of young men and girls will greet them with shouts of derision. They will tell him that while he slept a fortunate rival came and carried the beautiful Loralene away on a white horse. Wild Buffalo will affect great grief and distress. While the young men are wailing and breathing threats the girls will laugh at them and call them "lazy lovers." An old woman whispers a word into the ears of the sorrowing lover and points toward the forest. Uttering shouts of the wildest joy the young warriors set out in pursuit of the stolen maiden.

After some hours have passed Wild Buffalo will appear at a full gallop bearing his sweetheart in his arms. Followed by a long cavalcade of boys and girls he will circle about the camp, welcomed by shouts of the wildest joy. The white visitors might enjoy the affair with deeper interest were it not for the fact that the Kiowas have never abandoned dog flesh, but regard a well roasted, fat dog as a dish fit for royalty.

TELEPHONES ON FARMS.

Social and Business Life of Rural Communities Changing.

The telephone is transforming the social and business life of many rural communities of the United States. In no other branch of activity is the spirit of expansion more manifest. Country folks like the instrument because it brings them into novel relationship with the rest of the world. City people who make periodical visits into the country are sorry to see the innovation, because it takes away something of the charm of isolation when they have grown weary of the rush and fever of urban life. In some country communities the dream of Edward Bellamy is being partially realized. People sit in their homes, miles from any church, and listen to the sermon of their pastor over the wire. The most elaborate systems of country telephone connection are found in the thickly populated Eastern states. Where the houses are close together the cost of establishing and maintaining a system is proportionately cheaper for the companies establishing them, hence they first seek out such places to do business. Massachusetts is, perhaps the best field for profitable investment in this line. In that state, especially in communities where the rural population is mostly well-to-do, the use of the telephone by farmers is becoming well nigh universal. In the more sparsely inhabited western states the telephone people have rarely ventured beyond the wayside villages in the introduction of the 'phone. That is especially true of the central and southern divisions of Illinois, but it is predicted by observant men that, before the end of another decade, the rich farming communities of Illinois will all be in full touch with the outside world through the medium of the telephone.—Chicago Record-Herald.

A bill has recently been introduced in the Minnesota legislature to prohibit the chewing of gum by a member while delivering a public speech in the legislative halls of Minnesota.



GOING TO THE WEDDING WITH HIS BRIDE.

belle of the whole Kiowa nation and it was changed to Loralene, which is the Kiowa name for a beautiful flower which, by its exquisite odor lures insects to its petals and then closes on them and feeds on their bodies.

Loralene's father was one of the shrewdest Indians that ever lived. His tribal name was Silver Hand, so called because he always had plenty of money. A few years before his death Silver Hand placed his daughter, Loralene, in school in Arkansas City that she might become educated as the white girls, and when he died he left a handsome bank account to her credit. The Indian girl would not return to school after the death of her father, but was bent on having a good time.

During the great autumnal hunt of the Kiowas last year the young braves of the tribe were made to understand that Loralene intended to

who were pursuing her when the medicine man interfered.

This was, however, the last of the many contests she witnessed among her suitors, for shortly after her relatives held a council in which they decided that she should marry Wild Buffalo, and began to make preparations for a great wedding feast. Wild Buffalo is a promising young chief. He likes to associate with white people and has hosts of friends among the cattle men in Texas, Kansas and Oklahoma, whom he has invited to come to his wedding.

Features of the Wedding.

Many features of the feast and marriage ceremony will be regarded with the deepest interest by people who are not familiar with the customs of the Indians. The festivities will commence with the rising of the sun and last for three or four days and nights.

the German comedians and their satire on Washington life.

Gossip of the Stage.

Richard Carle is now rewriting the libretto of "The Explorers."

This is the harvest time for Clyde Fitch. He has ten plays all making royalties at once.

Madeline Lucette Ryley's new play, "Mice and Men," is making an emphatic hit in London.

Blanche Bates says she is fully restored to health, and is anxious to again take the road.

Phoebe Davies has played the part of Anna Moore in "Way Down East" something over 2,000 times.

Chris Bruzo, son of the veteran Gus, and well known in theatrical circles, is now with May Irwin's company.